

NARCOTICS CONTROL DIGEST

file: South Florida Task Force

Vol. 12 No. 8

April 14, 1982

Page 1

DRUG SMUGGLERS LYING LOW, HIDING FROM MIAMI TASK FORCE

Tidal Wave Becomes A Trickle

Marijuana and cocaine smuggling in Miami has drawn to a near standstill, and the price is "dropping like mad" in Colombia, says the man in charge of the Vice Presidential Task Force on South Florida Crime.

"It's going to be a long haul. It's not a problem you can solve overnight," Admiral Daniel Murphy said April 7 on his third recent visit to Miami.

Murphy, chief of staff for Vice President George Bush, reported that the amount of marijuana and cocaine being smuggled into South Florida has been reduced to "a little bit."

"There's a little bit coming in, but compared to the flow that we faced a while back, it's down to a trickle," he said.

(See FLORIDA, page eight)

HOW TO SET UP STRICT CONTROLS FOR UNDERCOVER FUNDS

By Howard A. Katz

Instructor, Criminal Justice

College Of The Mainland, Texas City, TX

The integrity of the special investigation unit responsible for narcotics, vice, or intelligence activities — and its agents — is most vulnerable when it comes to the handling of confidential undercover operation funds. Unless every penny is accounted

(Continued on page two)

GAO SEEKING CONFIDENTIAL INFO ON DEA INVESTIGATIONS

Officials of the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the Drug Enforcement Administration are trying to reach agreement on the release of confidential information sought by the GAO, the watchdog agency of Congress.

(See GAO, page eight)

IN THIS ISSUE

SOUTH FLORIDA: Dope Imports Drop	1
INFORMANT FUNDS: Establishing Strict Controls	1
DEA: Some Questions From The GAO	1
VIDEO GAMES: Attracting Drug Dealers, Users	1
Singin' The Same Ole Country Song	8
Watch Out For Bad "Quaaludes"	9
PARAQUAT: Squabble May Flare Up Again	9
IN THE COURTS	10
Burgers, Fries And A Task Force — To Go	10

NY SURVEY FINDS VIDEO GAME PARLORS ALSO FEATURE DRUGS

Julio A. Martinez, director of the New York State Division of Substance Abuse Service, has announced that a just-completed study of New York City video game parlors — including storefronts and shops which feature video games — revealed that drugs such as marijuana and cocaine are sold and used at a majority of the surveyed sites.

(See VIDEO GAMES, page seven)

An Independent News Summary & Information Exchange

RICHARD J. O'CONNELL, Publisher

BETTY B. BOSARGE, Editor

NANCY VAN WYEN, Subscription Director

Published Bi-Weekly by Washington Crime News Services

7620 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

Phone 703-941-6600. \$85 per year; multi-copy rates and 30-day trial subscription available on request.

All rights reserved. Reproduction prohibited without the express written permission of the publisher.

WARNING
APRIL 14, 1982

April 14, 1982

SAME OLE ME . . . SAME OLE DRUGS

Country singer George Jones was charged with possession of cocaine and public drunkenness on March 29 after police in Jackson, Miss., stopped his car for an alleged speeding violation, officials said.

Jones, 50, and Nancy Sepulvado, 33, were charged after a state Highway Patrol officer clocked Jones' car at 91 miles per hour, said Tom Dial, director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.

Jones and Sepulvado were jailed briefly at the Hinds County jail, then were released on their own recognizance, Dial said.

The Bureau of Narcotics sent agents and a drug-sniffing dog to the scene. Dial said the dog found a white powder on the floor mats that was identified as cocaine after analysis at the state crime laboratory. "It was a very small amount, but it will be prosecuted as a felony," Dial said.

Jones, the Country Music Association's male vocalist of the year for the last two years, has been touring to promote his new album *Same Ole Me*.

(FLORIDA, continued from page one)

The drug smugglers are worried, he said. "They're taking it very, very seriously. We've got drug-suspect airplanes all over the Bahamas. Nothing is moving. This comes from what looks to me to be a very well-coordinated effort by all of the law enforcement people that are on station here and participating in this Vice Presidential Task Force."

Murphy warned that Federal agencies must not fall into a trap of thinking the drug smuggling problem is over, because the drug entrepreneurs will rebound.

"If you were on their side you would say, 'Well, that's good. Let's lay low for 90 days.' And they have the stuff down in the islands, stashed down in Colombia. And they will look to see what happens after 90 days is up."

"The price of cocaine and marijuana is dropping like mad in Colombia. The cost of moving the stuff is skyrocketing," said Murphy. "There's a big squeeze on those that are making a living out of this drug business. We don't know how long they can hold back." ■

(GAO, continued from page one)

A DEA spokesman said members of the two agencies met April 9 and there is "a possibility of more meetings this week."

In an unusual move, the GAO recently complained to President Reagan that the DEA was withholding information needed by the congressional investigating agency.

The GAO had been requested by Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) to review the DEA's efforts to crack down on major drug traffickers. But DEA officials declined to release the information.

Comptroller General Charles Bowsher first wrote to Attorney General William French Smith March 1, but reportedly got no satisfaction.

Then, acting under a two-year-old law, Bowsher notified Reagan of the problem last week. He said the GAO might have to take DEA to court to obtain the information.

Officials of the two agencies scheduled their meeting April 9 after word of the dispute and the plea to the White House became known.

Bowsher, in his letter to Smith, said his agency would "in accordance with our usual practice, take all steps necessary to guard against unauthorized disclosure of sensitive or confidential information."

The GAO asked for access to case records in Los Angeles, Boston, New York and San Diego. Most were denied, a GAO spokeswoman said. ■

SEND US YOUR NEWS